

## **Appendix J**

### **Phase I Archaeological Survey Summary**



## **M-15 DEIS**

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The Phase I Archaeological Survey Report, provided under separate cover, is a companion document to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for the M-15 project between I-75 and I-69 in Oakland and Genesee counties.

The M-15 archaeological work initially consisted of a windshield survey of project alternatives and a literature search conducted at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in order to document the locations of previously recorded archaeological sites. Once the Preferred Alternative was determined, a field survey was implemented of those areas likely to be directly impacted by the project within the existing and proposed expanded M-15 right-of-way. Detailed right-of-way maps were used. Survey work in Oakland County was carried out between April 18, 2001 and May 2, 2001. The Genesee County segment was surveyed between May 7, 2001 and May 18, 2001.

The archaeological survey identified 11 site locations within or spanning the margins of the extended M-15 right-of-way shown on the graphics included in this summary. Five of these, all historic in age, were located in Oakland County and consist of a house depression (20OK478); a stone house/cellar foundation (20OK479); a stone and concrete farmhouse/cellar foundation along with a cistern/well, structural depression, and concrete foundation of an outbuilding (20OK480); a domestic artifact scatter (20OK481); and, a grouping of ancillary farmstead structure remnants (20OK482). Four sites, one prehistoric and three historic in age, were identified in Genesee County. They include an isolated find spot that produced four sherds of a blue edge plate (20GS125); an isolated find spot that produced a Late Woodland period Madison projectile point (20GS126); a concrete rubble and brick pile with a possible structural depression and surface scatter of historic artifacts (20GS127); and, a stone and concrete cellar foundation (20GS128).

One site, 20OK480, may be potentially eligible for inclusion on the NRHP because it may represent one of the earlier intact sites within the M-15 survey corridor. Most of the site would appear to be located east of the proposed right-of-way, and impacts would be restricted to the front yard and a portion of the farmhouse foundation. While it is unlikely that significant historical deposits would be present in the front yard, which would have been kept free from debris and structures commonly associated with trash and refuse disposal (e.g., privies, trash pits, trash dumps) deposits are more likely to occur in side or rear yards. The farmhouse foundation will likely be impacted, if not demolished, by the proposed project. This would adversely affect the integrity of the site as a whole. Therefore, if impacts to the house cannot be avoided, it is recommended that Phase II testing be conducted to determine the precise boundary of the site and whether significant deposits exist.

Two additional archaeological sites, 20GS123 and 20GS124, were reported by local property owners. Based on intensive survey of the areas adjacent to these sites, it was conclusively demonstrated that neither site is located within the survey area.

Finally, two remnants of old State Road were identified. Both are located in the Atlas Township (T6N/R8E), Genesee County segment of the project. Upon study it was determined that neither section of the old State Road is eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.